

List of 500 Useful Idioms

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1. All at sea

— Confused and uncertain what to do.

2. A bird's-eye view

— A general or overall view of something.

3. A blessing in disguise

— Something that appears bad at first but results in something good.

4. A bolt from the blue

— A sudden and unexpected event or piece of news.

5. A bone of contention

— A subject or issue that causes ongoing disagreement.

6. A busy bee

— A person who is very active and hardworking.

7. A cock-and-bull story

— An unbelievable story told as if it were true.

8. A cry in the wilderness

— A suggestion or warning that is ignored or disregarded.

9. A dark horse

— A person who unexpectedly achieves success.

10. A different kettle of fish

— A completely different matter or situation.

11. A drop in the ocean

— Something too small to make a noticeable difference.

12. A feather in one's cap

— An achievement to be proud of.

13. A fight to the finish

— A battle or competition pursued until one side wins decisively.

✓14. A fish in troubled waters

— A person who takes advantage of a difficult or unsettled situation.

15. A fish out of water

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— A person in an unfamiliar or uncomfortable situation.

16. A fly in the ointment

— A small flaw that spoils something valuable or enjoyable.

✓ 17. A fly on the wall

— Someone who secretly observes a situation without being noticed.

✓ 18. A fly on the wheel

— Someone who overestimates their importance in events they cannot control.

19. French leave

— Leaving without saying goodbye or without permission.

20. A hair's breadth

— A very small distance or margin.

21. A hard-and-fast rule

— A fixed and strict rule that must be followed.

22. A hard nut to crack

— A difficult problem or person to deal with.

✓ 23. A hard pill to swallow

— Something unpleasant that must be accepted.

24. A heartbeat away

— Very close in position, time, or importance.

✓ 25. A horse of a different color

— A matter that is completely different from what was being discussed.

26. A leap in the dark

— An action taken without knowing the risks or consequences.

✓ 27. A nail in the coffin

— An event that causes the failure or end of something.

28. A needle in a haystack

— Something extremely hard to find.

29. A nine days' wonder

— Something that attracts attention for a short time but is soon forgotten.

30. A piece of cake

— Something very easy to do.

✓ 31. A red rag to a bull

— Something likely to provoke anger or violence.

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A red-letter day

A day that is memorable for being special or joyful.

To catch the wind with a net

To attempt something impossible or pointless.

A shot in the dark

An attempt with little hope of success.

A snake in the grass

- A deceitful or treacherous person.

A square deal

- Fair and honest treatment.

A thorn in the flesh

- A constant source of irritation or trouble.

A walk in the park

- Something that is very easy to do.

A white elephant

- Something that is more trouble than it is worth, often expensive to maintain.

A wild-goose chase

- A futile or hopeless search or pursuit.

A wolf in sheep's clothing

- Someone who pretends to be harmless but is dangerous.

Achilles' heel

- A weakness in an otherwise strong person or thing.

To add fuel to the fire

- To make a bad situation worse.

To add insult to injury

- To make a bad situation even more unpleasant.

Against a rainy day

- Saving or preparing for a future time of need.

Against the grain

- Contrary to one's nature, principles, or expectations.

Against the stream

- In opposition to the majority or the usual direction.

All and sundry

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— Everyone without exception.

✓ 49. The alpha and omega

— The beginning and the end; the most important part.

50. An apple of discord

— Something that causes trouble or disagreement.

✓ 51. An arrow in the quiver

— A resource or strategy available for use when needed.

✓ 52. An itching palm

— A greedy desire for money, especially in the form of bribes.

✓ 53. An oily tongue

— a speech that is flattering but insincere.

✓ 54. Another pair of shoes

— A completely different matter or situation.

55. As thick as thieves

— Very close friends who share secrets.

56. At a stone's throw

— Very close in distance.

57. At a stretch

— Continuously, without stopping.

✓ 58. At the drop of a hat

— Immediately and without hesitation.

59. At the eleventh hour

— At the last possible moment before a deadline.

✓ 60. To be back to square one

— To return to the starting point after an effort fails.

61. To be born with a silver spoon in one's mouth

— Born into a wealthy and privileged family.

62. To be Greek to someone

— To be completely incomprehensible.

63. To be poles apart

— To be completely different or in total disagreement.

64. To be second to none

— To be the best; better than everyone else.

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15. To bear the brunt of

— To suffer the worst part of something unpleasant.

16. To be beaten at the post

— Defeated at the last moment.

17. Beside the mark

— Irrelevant or inaccurate.

18. Between a rock and a hard place

— In a situation with no easy or good options.

19. Between the devil and the deep blue sea

— Caught between two equally unpleasant choices.

20. Between two fires

— Under attack from two opposing sides at the same time.

21. To blow a hole in

— To cause serious damage to or weaken something.

22. To blow one's own trumpet

— To boast or brag about one's achievements.

23. To build castles in the air

— To make unrealistic plans or dreams.

24. To be built on sand

— Based on a weak or unreliable foundation.

25. To burn one's fingers

— To suffer from a bad experience, often due to taking a risk.

26. To burn the midnight oil

— To work late into the night.

27. By fits and starts

— With irregular bursts of activity.

28. By hook or by crook

— By any means possible, fair or unfair.

29. By leaps and bounds

— Rapidly and significantly.

30. By the sweat of one's brow

— Through hard work.

31. To be carved in stone

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— Fixed and unchangeable.

✓ 82. To be cast to the winds

— To disregard or waste something completely.

83. To chase one's own tail

— To waste time and energy trying to do something impossible.

84. To chase rainbows

— To pursue unrealistic goals.

85. To catch at a straw

— To try anything to improve a hopeless situation.

86. Come hell or high water

— No matter what happens; regardless of difficulties.

87. Crocodile tears

— False or insincere expressions of sadness.

88. To cut loose

— To free oneself from restrictions or responsibilities.

✓ 89. To cut no ice

— To have no effect or influence.

90. To cut the crap

— Stop speaking nonsense or wasting time.

✓ 91. To cut to the bone

— Reduced to the minimum; extremely severe.

92. To cut to the chase

— Skip unnecessary details and get to the main point.

93. To be dead and buried

— Completely finished and forgotten.

✓ 94. To dot the i's and cross the t's

— To pay attention to every detail.

95. Down and out

— Lacking money, resources, or hope.

✓ 96. To drop a brick

— To make an embarrassing mistake or blunder.

✓ 97. To eat dirt

— To accept humiliation or defeat.

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3. To eat one's heart out

- To suffer greatly from jealousy or longing.

4. To end in smoke

- To come to nothing; to fail completely.

10. Every cloud has a silver lining

- There is something good in every bad situation.

11. To fall on deaf ears

- To be ignored or disregarded.

12. To fall on stony ground

- To be ignored or rejected, especially advice or requests.

13. To fan the flames

- To make a bad situation worse by adding to it.

14. Far and near

- In all directions; everywhere.

15. Far and wide

- Over a large area; in many places.

16. To float someone's boat

- To please or interest someone.

17. To fly off the handle

- To suddenly lose one's temper.

18. From cradle to grave

- Throughout one's entire life.

19. From pillar to post

- From one place or situation to another without success.

20. From scratch

- From the very beginning.

21. From soup to nuts

- From beginning to end; covering everything.

22. To get one's feet under the table

- To become comfortable in a new situation or job.

23. To get under someone's skin

- To irritate or annoy someone deeply.

24. To gird one's loins

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— To prepare oneself for action or a challenge.

✓115. To go to seed

— To decline in condition or quality.

116. To grease someone's palm

— To bribe someone.

117. To harp on the same string

— To keep talking about the same subject, annoyingly.

118. To have other fish to fry

— To have other, more important matters to attend to.

✓119. To have a cross to bear

— To have a difficult responsibility or burden to endure.

✓120. To hide one's light under a bushel

— To conceal one's talents or abilities.

121. To hit someone below the belt

— To act or play unfairly.

122. To hit the nail on the head

— To describe something accurately or exactly.

✓123. To hitch horses together

— To work together in cooperation.

✓124. To hold the line

— To maintain one's position or opinion despite pressure.

125. Hush money

— Money paid to keep someone silent about something.

126. In a nutshell

— In a very brief summary.

127. In deep water

— In serious trouble or difficulty.

128. In seventh heaven

— Extremely happy and content.

129. In the heat of the moment

— Acting impulsively due to strong emotions.

130. In the long run

— Over a long period of time; eventually.

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131. In the twinkling of an eye

— Very quickly.

132. To join up the dots

— To link facts or ideas to understand a situation.

133. To keep at bay

— To prevent someone or something from coming near or affecting you.

134. To keep one's powder dry

— To be prepared for action.

135. To keep something under wraps

— To keep something secret.

136. To keep the wolf from the door

— To earn enough to avoid hunger or poverty.

137. Kith and kin

— Friends and relatives.

138. To lend an ear

— To listen attentively and sympathetically.

139. Let bygones be bygones

— To forget past disagreements and forgive.

140. To make ends meet

— To earn just enough to cover one's expenses.

141. To make bricks without straw

— To try to do something without the necessary resources.

142. To mind one's p's and q's

— To be careful about one's behavior or language.

143. Not one's cup of tea

— Not something one likes or enjoys.

144. Not worth a dime

— Worthless.

145. Not worth the candle

— Not worth the effort or expense.

146. Now and again

— Occasionally.

147. Now or never

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— A situation requiring immediate action.

✓ 148. Oil and water

— Two things or people that do not mix well.

149. On cloud nine

— Extremely happy.

✓ 150. On pins and needles

— In a state of nervous anticipation.

✓ 151. On the ropes

— In serious difficulty or near defeat.

152. On the spur of the moment

— Acting suddenly without planning.

153. On the wane

— Decreasing or declining.

154. Once in a blue moon

— Very rarely.

✓ 155. Out and out

— Complete and without qualification.

156. Out of the blue

— Suddenly and unexpectedly.

157. Out of the clear blue sky

— Without warning; unexpectedly.

158. Over the moon

— Extremely happy or pleased.

159. Part and parcel

— An essential part of something.

✓ 160. To play ducks and drakes with

— To waste or misuse something.

✓ 161. To play fast and loose

— To behave dishonestly or carelessly.

162. Come what may

— No matter what happens.

✓ 163. To play second fiddle to

— To take a subordinate role to someone else.

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164. Pomp and show

— Display of grandeur and ceremony.

165. To pour oil on troubled waters

— To try to calm a tense situation.

166. To reap the fruits

— To benefit from the results of one's actions.

167. To reinvent the wheel

— To waste time creating something that already exists.

168. To rise from the ashes

— To recover after destruction or failure.

169. Root and branch

— Completely and in every part; thoroughly.

170. To run into the sand

— To fail after starting with potential.

171. To set the wheels in motion

— To begin a process or series of events.

172. To show one's teeth

— To show hostility or aggression.

173. To sit on one's hands

— To do nothing; to avoid taking action.

174. To skate on thin ice

— To take a big risk.

175. To smell of the lamp

— Showing signs of overwork or too much effort.

176. To spill the beans

— To reveal a secret.

177. To spin one's wheels

— To waste time without making progress.

178. To square the circle

— To attempt the impossible.

179. To steal someone's thunder

— To take credit for someone else's idea or success.

180. A sting in the tail

To make the desert blue.

— An unexpected unpleasant ending.

✓ 181. To strike at the root of

— To attack the fundamental cause.

182. To strike oil

— To have sudden good luck or find something valuable.

183. To strike while the iron is hot

— To take advantage of an opportunity immediately.

✓ 184. Sum and substance

— The essential meaning or most important part.

185. The apple of someone's eye

— A person or thing one loves above all others.

✓ 186. The cut of someone's jib

— Someone's general appearance or manner.

187. The gift of the gab

— The ability to speak fluently and persuasively.

188. The ins and outs

— The details and complexities of something.

189. The last straw

— The final irritation that makes a situation unbearable.

190. The length and breadth of

— All over; in every part of.

✓ 191. The long and the short of something

— The basic or essential point.

✓ 192. The pick of the basket

— The best of a group.

✓ 193. The pot calling the kettle black

— Criticizing someone for a fault you also have.

194. The pros and cons

— The advantages and disadvantages.

✓ 195. The rank and file

— The ordinary members of an organization.

✓ 196. The small hours

— The early hours after midnight.

197. The sword of Damocles

— An impending danger.

198. Through and through

— Completely; in every way.

199. Through thick and thin

— In good times and bad.

200. To throw caution to the wind

— To act recklessly without considering the risks.

201. Thus and thus

— In such a way; in this manner.

202. To tip the scales

— To influence the outcome of something.

203. To back the wrong horse

— To support someone or something that is unlikely to succeed.

204. To bark up the wrong tree

— To make a wrong assumption about something.

205. To be armed to the teeth

— To be heavily armed or well-equipped.

206. To be at daggers drawn

— To be openly hostile toward each other.

207. To be at one's wits' end

— To be very worried or upset, not knowing what to do.

208. To be at the end of one's tether

— To have no strength or patience left.

209. To be in hot water

— To be in serious trouble.

210. To be in someone's bad books

— To be in disfavor with someone.

211. To beard the lion in his den

— To confront someone boldly in their own territory.

212. To beat about the bush

— To avoid addressing the main point.

213. To bite the bullet

— To face a difficult or unpleasant situation with courage.

✓ **214. To bite the dust**

— To fail, die, or be defeated.

✓ **215. To break the ice**

— To make people feel more comfortable in a social situation.

216. To burn one's boats

— To make a decision that cannot be undone.

✓ **217. To burn the candle at both ends**

— To exhaust oneself by doing too much.

218. To bury the hatchet

— To make peace after an argument.

219. To call a spade a spade

— To speak frankly and directly.

✓ **220. To carry coals to Newcastle**

— To do something unnecessary or redundant.

✓ **221. To carry the day**

— To win or succeed.

222. To catch someone red-handed

— To catch someone in the act of doing something wrong.

✓ **223. To cleanse the Augean stables**

— To carry out a difficult and thorough clean-up.

✓ **224. To cry for the moon**

— To ask for something impossible.

225. To cut a sorry figure

— To make a poor impression.

✓ **226. To cut short**

— To stop something before it is finished.

✓ **227. To eat humble pie**

— To admit one's mistake and apologize.

228. To face the music

— To accept the consequences of one's actions.

✓ **229. To feather one's nest**

— To enrich oneself at the expense of others.

230. To flog a dead horse

— To waste effort on something that is no longer relevant.

231. To have a bee in one's bonnet

— To be obsessed with an idea.

232. To have a bone to pick

— To have a complaint or grievance.

233. To have an axe to grind

— To have a selfish reason for doing something.

234. To have ants in one's pants

— To be restless or impatient.

235. To have deep pockets

— To be wealthy.

236. To have one's heart in one's mouth

— To be extremely nervous or anxious.

237. To hit the mark

— To be accurate or correct.

238. To hold water

— To be sound or valid (about an argument or explanation).

239. To keep both oars in the water

— To remain alert and in control.

240. To know one's onions

— To be knowledgeable about something.

241. To leave someone in the lurch

— To abandon someone in trouble.

242. To leave no stone unturned

— To try every possible course of action.

243. To live from hand to mouth

— To have just enough money to survive.

244. To look/speak daggers at someone

— To glare/speak angrily with someone.

245. To make a mountain out of a molehill

— To exaggerate a problem.

246. To make a pile

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— To make a large amount of money.

247. To make hay while the sun shines

— To take advantage of favorable conditions.

248. To move heaven and earth

— To do everything possible to achieve something.

✓ **249. To paddle one's own canoe**

— To act independently.

250. To pay back in the same coin

— To retaliate in the same way as one was treated.

251. To pay off old scores

— To take revenge for a past wrong.

✓ **252. To pick up the threads**

— To resume something after a break.

253. To plough the sand

— To waste effort on something useless.

✓ **254. To pocket an insult**

— To accept an insult without protest.

✓ **255. To put a spoke in someone's wheel**

— To obstruct someone's progress or plans.

256. To read between the lines

— To understand an implied meaning.

✓ **257. To rip up old sores**

— To revive old grievances or conflicts.

258. To scatter to the winds

— To disperse completely.

✓ **259. To set the Thames on fire**

— To do something remarkable or sensational.

✓ **260. To sit on the fence**

— To avoid making a decision or taking a side.

261. To smell a rat

— To suspect something is wrong.

✓ **262. To sow one's wild oats**

— To engage in youthful indiscretions.

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- 263. To stem the tide**
— To stop the spread or growth of something.
- 264. To strain every nerve**
— To make the utmost effort.
- 265. To strike the keynote**
— To set the tone or main theme of something.
- 266. To throw dust in someone's eyes**
— To deceive someone.
- 267. To turn a blind eye**
— To deliberately ignore something.
- 268. To toe the line**
— To conform to rules or standards.
- 269. To tread water**
— To make no progress despite effort.
- 270. To turn a deaf ear**
— To refuse to listen.
- 271. To turn the tables**
— To reverse a situation to one's advantage.
- 272. Under the carpet**
— Hidden from public view; concealed.
- 273. Under a cloud**
— Under suspicion or in disgrace.
- 274. Under the hatches**
— Safely stored or secured.
- 275. Under the rose**
— In secret.
- 276. Under the weather**
— Feeling unwell.
- 277. Up to the hilt**
— Fully or completely.
- 278. Ups and downs**
— Periods of good and bad fortune.
- 279. To use a sledgehammer to crack a nut**

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— To use excessive force for a small problem.

✓ 280. To wrap someone in cotton wool

— To be overprotective of someone.

✓ 281. Water under the bridge

— Something past and no longer important.

282. Wear and tear

— Damage from ordinary use.

✓ 283. Wet behind the ears

— Inexperienced.

✓ 284. To whistle in the dark

— To pretend to be unafraid in a frightening situation.

✓ 285. With a grain of salt

— With doubt or skepticism.

286. With flying colours

— With great success.

✓ 287. With one's tail between one's legs

— Feeling ashamed or defeated.

288. Within an ace of

— Very close to.

289. Within striking distance

— Close enough to achieve or attack.

✓ 290. A bad egg

— A dishonest or unpleasant person.

291. A bed of roses

— An easy or comfortable situation.

✓ 292. A bird's-eye view

— A general view from above or an overview. } *repeated* *begin and day out*
- continuously

✓ 293. A blind alley

— A situation with no progress or escape.

294. Straight from the horse's mouth

— Directly from the original source of information.

✓ 295. A dead letter

— Something no longer in effect or relevant.

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- ~~296.~~ A dog with two tails
— Someone extremely happy.
- ~~297.~~ A fair-weather friend
— A friend who is only loyal in good times.
- ~~298.~~ A false dawn
— Something that seems promising but turns out to be disappointing.
- ~~299.~~ A green hand
— An inexperienced person.
- ~~300.~~ A hornet's nest
— A situation full of trouble and difficulty.
- ~~301.~~ A hot potato
— A controversial issue that is difficult to handle.
- ~~302.~~ A jack of all trades
— A person skilled in many areas but not an expert in any.
- ~~303.~~ A labour of Hercules
— A task requiring enormous effort.
- ~~304.~~ A lion's share
— The largest portion.
- ~~305.~~ A man of letters
— A scholarly or literary person.
- ~~306.~~ A narrow escape
— A situation where disaster was narrowly avoided.
- ~~307.~~ A pious fraud
— A deception carried out for a good purpose.
- ~~308.~~ A rope of sand
— Something weak or ineffective.
- ~~309.~~ A stab in the back
— A betrayal.
- ~~310.~~ A stroke of luck
— A fortunate event.
- ~~311.~~ A thorn in one's side
— A continual annoyance or trouble.
- ~~312.~~ A turncoat

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— A person who switches loyalties.

313. To be a wise after the event

— to understand a situation only after it has happened.

314. Above par

— Better than average.

315. Again and again

— Repeatedly.

316. All hat and no cattle

— Full of talk but lacking action or substance.

317. All someone's geese are swans

— to believe everything related to oneself is better than it actually is.

318. An eager beaver

— A person who is very enthusiastic and hardworking.

319. An eye for an eye

— A principle of exact retaliation.

320. An iron will

— Great determination.

321. As blind as a bat

— Unable to see well or figuratively unaware.

322. As busy as a bee

— Very active and hardworking.

323. As cunning as a fox

— Very clever and deceitful.

324. As dry as dust

— Very dull or boring.

325. As dumb as a statue

— Silent or uncommunicative.

326. As easy as ABC

— Very easy.

327. As hungry as a hawk

— Extremely hungry.

328. As mad as a March hare

— Completely crazy or eccentric.

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- ~~329.~~ As neat as a pin
— Extremely tidy.
- 330.** As old as the hills
— Very ancient.
- ~~331.~~ At a loose end
— With nothing to do; idle.
- ~~332.~~ At full pelt
— At top speed.
- 333.** At sixes and sevens
— In a state of confusion or disorder.
- 334.** At someone's beck and call
— Ready to obey someone's orders immediately.
- 335.** At stake
— At risk.
- 336.** At a stone's throw
— Very close in distance.
- 337.** At the crossroads
— At a point of decision.
- ~~338.~~ Bad blood
— Ill feeling between people.
- 339.** Bag and baggage
— With all one's belongings.
- 340.** To be all ears
— To listen attentively.
- ~~341.~~ To be all fingers and thumbs
— To be clumsy.
- ~~342.~~ To beat someone hollow
— To defeat someone completely.
- ~~343.~~ Bed and breakfast
— A type of lodging that provides overnight stay and morning meal.
- ~~344.~~ Belt and braces
— Extra precautions for safety.
- ~~345.~~ Between wind and water

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- In a vulnerable position.
- ✓ 346. **Beyond the pale**
 - Outside the bounds of acceptable behavior.
- ✓ 347. **Birds of a feather**
 - People with similar interests or qualities.
- ✓ 348. **Black sheep**
 - A person who is considered a disgrace to a group or family.
- ✓ 349. **Bread and butter**
 - A person's main source of income.
- ✓ 350. **To bring to book**
 - To punish or call to account. *By the book* | *as per law*
- ✓ 351. **By and large**
 - Generally; on the whole.
- ✓ 352. **By the skin of one's teeth**
 - Barely; by a narrow margin.
- ✓ 353. **To be caught in the crossfire**
 - Involved in a conflict unintentionally.
- ✓ 354. **To close one's eyes to**
 - To deliberately ignore something.
- ✓ 355. **To come to terms**
 - To accept a difficult situation.
- ✓ 356. **To come to a head**
 - To reach a critical or decisive point.
- ✓ 357. **To cross one's fingers**
 - To hope for good luck.
- ✓ 358. **To cross swords**
 - To have an argument or dispute.
- ✓ 359. **To cut corners**
 - To do something cheaply or carelessly.
- ✓ 360. **To cut the cackle**
 - To stop talking and get to the point.
- ✓ 361. **A dog-and-pony show**
 - An elaborate presentation or display.

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- 362. To be done and dusted**
— Completely finished.
- 363. Down in the dumps**
— Feeling sad or depressed.
- 364. Down in the mouth**
— Looking unhappy.
- 365. Dust and ashes**
— Worthless or meaningless things.
- 366. To fall into line**
— To conform to rules or expectations.
- 367. To fall to the ground**
— To fail or be unsuccessful.
- 368. Far and away**
— By a large amount; easily.
- 369. Few and far between**
— Rare; infrequent.
- 370. Fifth column**
— A group working secretly within a country to undermine it.
- 371. First and foremost**
— Most importantly.
- 372. To fly in the face of**
— To oppose or resist something openly.
- 373. To be full of oneself**
— to be conceited or think oneself self-important.
- 374. To give the devil his due**
— To acknowledge the good qualities in someone you dislike.
- 375. To go with the flow**
— To follow along without resistance.
- 376. To go with the wind**
— To disappear or vanish.
- 377. To go with the tide**
— To follow general trends or opinions.
- 378. To grease the wheels**

— To make things run more smoothly, often by bribery.

✓ 379. To grind to a halt

— To slow down and stop.

✓ 380. To hang by a thread

— To be in great danger or uncertainty.

381. Heart and soul

— With complete dedication.

382. To hit the spot

— To be exactly what is needed.

383. Hobson's choice

— A situation where there is no real choice.

384. To hold one's horses

— To wait and be patient.

✓ 385. In black and white

— In written or printed form.

386. In smooth waters

— In a calm and stable situation.

387. In the blink of an eye

— Very quickly.

✓ 388. In the hollow of one's hand

— Under complete control.

389. In the nick of time

— Just in time.

✓ 390. In the teeth of

— In strong opposition to.

✓ 391. To keep one's nose to the grindstone

— To work hard and steadily.

392. To keep someone at arm's length

— To avoid getting too close or involved.

✓ 393. To lead someone by the nose

— To control someone completely.

✓ 394. To lead someone up the garden path

— To deceive someone.

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393. To leave someone to their own devices

— To let someone manage without interference.

396. To lock horns

— To become involved in a conflict.

397. To make head or tail of

— To understand something (usually in the negative).

398. To make a silk purse out of a sow's ear

— To turn something inferior into something valuable.

399. Many moons ago

— A long time ago.

400. Milk and honey

— A situation of great plenty and comfort.

401. Now and then

— Occasionally.

402. Off and on

— Intermittently; not continuously.

403. Off beam

— Incorrect or mistaken.

404. Off the hook

— Freed from a difficult situation or obligation.

405. On a collision course

— Moving toward conflict or disaster.

406. On a par with

— Equal to; comparable with.

407. On an even keel

— Balanced and stable.

408. On ice

— Postponed or delayed.

409. On one's beam ends

— In a difficult or desperate situation.

410. On the crest of a wave

— Experiencing a period of great success.

411. On the dot

— Exactly on time.

✓ 412. On the nail

— Immediately; without delay.

✓ 413. On the off chance */side*

— Hoping for a possible but unlikely outcome.

414. On the rocks

— In serious difficulty or close to failure.

✓ 415. On the stocks

— In preparation or under construction.

✓ 416. On thorns

— In a state of nervous anxiety.

417. Once and again

— Repeatedly.

418. Once and for all

— Conclusively; finally.

✓ 419. Out and away

— By far; without comparison.

✓ 420. Out of joint

— Dislocated or not working properly; also, out of harmony.

✓ 421. Out of key

— Not in harmony or agreement.

422. Out of line

— Behaving improperly or disrespectfully.

✓ 423. Out of one's element

— In an unfamiliar or uncomfortable situation.

in one's element

✓ 424. Out of sorts

— Unwell or in low spirits.

425. Out of the question

— Not possible or not allowed.

426. To go against the tide

— To oppose the prevailing opinion or trend.

✓ 427. Out of the woods

— Out of danger.

428. Over and above

— In addition to.

429. Over and over

— Repeatedly.

430. Over head and ears

— Deeply involved in something.

431. To put one's shoulder to the wheel

— To work hard at something.

432. To raise a dust

— To cause a disturbance or commotion.

433. To ruffle someone's feathers

— To annoy or upset someone.

434. To rush one's fences

— To act hastily without preparation.

435. To separate the wheat from the chaff

— To distinguish valuable things from worthless ones.

436. To show the white feather

— To show cowardice.

437. Someone's dogs are barking

— Someone's feet are hurting.

438. To spin a yarn

— To tell a long, often imaginative story.

439. To swallow the bait

— To be deceived or tricked.

440. To take someone to task

— To reprimand or criticize someone.

441. To talk through one's hat

— To speak without knowing the facts.

442. The cat is out of the bag

— A secret has been revealed.

443. The crack of dawn

— Very early in the morning.

444. The dirty end of the stick

— The unfair or unpleasant part of something.

✓ 445. **The eye of the storm**

— The center of a difficult situation, often calm compared to the surroundings.

446. **To be tied to someone's apron strings**

— to be overly dependent on someone, usually a mother.

✓ 447. **Time and tide**

— Natural events that wait for no one.

448. **To and fro**

— Back and forth.

449. **To be at a loss**

— To be puzzled or uncertain what to do.

✓ 450. **To be in leading strings**

— To be under close control or guidance.

451. **To be in the heyday of**

— To be at the peak or prime period of something.

452. **To be on nodding terms**

— To know someone slightly and only exchange greetings.

✓ 453. **To drop a dime**

— To inform the authorities, often about someone's wrongdoing.

✓ 454. **To beat someone black and blue**

— To hit someone repeatedly, causing bruises.

✓ 455. **To blow hot and cold**

— To keep changing one's attitude or opinion.

✓ 456. **To fall between two stools**

— To fail by trying to do two things at once and achieving neither.

457. **At the drop of a hat**

— Immediately and without hesitation.

✓ 458. **To give false colour to**

— To misrepresent or distort the truth.

459. **To go hand in hand**

— To be closely related or associated.

460. **To have an ace up one's sleeve**

— To have a secret advantage.

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461. To have two strings to one's bow

— To have an alternative plan or skill.

462. To hold all the aces

— To be in a winning or strong position.

463. To hold out the olive branch

— To offer peace or reconciliation.

464. To husband one's resources

— To use one's resources carefully.

465. To keep the ball rolling

— To maintain progress in an activity.

466. To kick the bucket

— To die.

467. To knock on the head

— To stop something from happening.

468. To learn by rote

— To memorize without understanding.

469. To make a clean breast of

— To confess fully.

470. To make amends for

— To compensate or apologize for a wrong.

471. To make ducks and drakes of

— To waste recklessly.

472. To make light of

— To treat something as unimportant.

473. To pay through the nose

— To pay an excessive amount.

474. To poison someone's ears

— To turn someone against another through malicious talk.

475. To pull a long face

— To look sad or disappointed.

476. To pull someone's leg

— To tease or joke with someone.

477. To pull strings

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— To use influence to get something done.

✓ **478. To pull the wires**

— To secretly control events or people.

479. To show the cold shoulder

— To deliberately ignore or treat someone unfriendly.

480. To take to heart

— To be deeply affected by something.

481. To take to one's heels

— To run away quickly.

✓ **482. To tamper with**

— To interfere with something improperly.

✓ **483. To tear to shreds**

— To criticize severely.

✓ **484. To the backbone**

— Thoroughly; in every way.

✓ **485. To the letter**

— Exactly as instructed.

✓ **486. To the point**

— Relevant and concise.

✓ **487. To throw cold water on**

— To discourage enthusiasm.

488. To throw down the gauntlet

— To issue a challenge.

✓ **489. To throw up one's cards**

— To give up or quit.

490. Neither fish nor fowl

— Something that belongs to no definite category.

✓ **491. Tooth and nail**

— With all one's strength and effort.

✓ **492. To fish or cut bait**

— To stop delaying and make a decision or let someone else do it.

✓ **493. Under the skin**

— Beneath the outward appearance.

494. Up to the mark

— Meeting the required standard.

495. To wend one's way

— To proceed or travel slowly.

496. With might and main

— With all one's strength.

497. With open arms

— Warmly and eagerly.

498. Worth one's salt

— Good at one's job; competent.

499. A bull in a china shop

— A person who is clumsy, careless, or tactless in a delicate situation.

500. A white lie

— A harmless or small lie, often told to avoid hurting someone's feelings.

better late than never
break a leg
cut somebody some slack
cutting corners
easy does it
get sth out of one's system
give sb the benefit of
the doubt

go back to the
drawing board
get sb off
the hook
miss the boat
on the ball

pull sb's leg
pull myself together

that's the last straw

The best of both worlds

Time flies when you're
having fun

to get bent out of shape

We'll cross that bridge
when we come to it

wrap one's head around sth

A penny for your thoughts

when it rains, it pours

a perfect storm
a picture is worth
1000 words
bite off more than
one can chew
by the skin of
one's teeth
comparing apples
to oranges

cost an arm and a leg
do sth at the drop of a hat
don't give up your day job
get a taste of one's own medicine
good things come to those
who wait

He is a chip off the old block

It ain't over till the fat lady sings

It takes one to know one

live and learn

play devil's advocate

take a rain check

take sth with a grain of salt

The ball is in your court

The best thing since sliced bread

The whole nine yards

There are other fish in sea

There is no such thing as a free lunch

a snowball effect/
a butterfly effect

a snowball's chance in hell
an ounce of prevention is worth
a pound of cure
as right as rain
burn bridges
come sain or shine
cut the mustard
don't beat a dead horse
fit as a fiddle
get a second wind
get wind of sth
go down in flames
have one's head in the clouds
he who laughs last laughs loudest
play with a full deck
be off one's rocker
It is a poor workman who
blames his tools
It takes two to tango
jump on the bandwagon
let sleeping dogs lie
like riding a bicycle
like two peas in a pod
shape up or ship out
be snowed under
That ship has sailed
There are clouds on the
horizon
Those who live in glass
houses shouldn't throw
stones
waste not, want not
We see eye to eye
to weather the storm
it is his life story

than vinegar
You can lead a horse to water, but
you can't make him drink.
You can't make an omelet without
breaking some eggs.

cold feet
set the record straight
break sb's bubble
walk on eggshells
at loggerheads with sb
pretty penny
steal sb's thunder
stick to one's guns
clouds on the horizon
blue in the face
worth its weight in gold
get one's act together
blame one's tools
get the show on the road
pull the last straw
when pigs fly

The best of both worlds
wrap ~~pass~~ head around sth
~~see~~ a pain in the neck
walk in sb else's shoes
Devil quoting the Bible
bounce off the walls
light sleeper
go to seed
red cent
donkey's years

hang on every word
happy cake day
hands-on
get one's act together
throw in the towel
go an extra mile
curve out a niche
break the mould
hold the key

what goes around, comes around
Two's company, three's a crowd
Elvis has left the building
another string to one's bow
look after your pennies and the
pounds will look after themselves
all in the same boat
drive sb up the wall
get the ball rolling
in the heat of the moment
keep up one's chin
put the cart before the horse
not ring a bell
rule of thumb

skeletons in the closet
show sb the ropes
off the hook
throw sb for a loop
pipe down!

drop the ball

get off on the wrong foot

swallow sth hook, line and sinker

jump the gun

get one's wires crossed

off the chain

lose one's touch

eyeball sth

bring home the bacon

put one's foot in one's mouth

get a grip

piece of work

put sb on the spot

a night owl

play one's cards right

piece of the pie

up in the air

catch sb's eye

take the bull by the horns

under the gun

lose steam

off base

play ball

~~see~~ eye

tip of the iceberg

draw a line

grasp at straws

in limbo

keep tabs on sb

make waves

pull strings

quick fix

red top

up the ante

a white lie

yellow belly

drop ball

eye of the tiger

full plate

give sb an inch,
and they'll take a mile.

hit the books

in a pickle

jump shark

knock socks off

no dice

off hook

odds and ends

spick and span

down earth

flash pan

hit roof

make grade

in neck of woods

can be fit

run of the mill
be a by word
to all intents and
purposes
back burner
nail in the coffin
make hay
an open book
talk turkey

bite a hand that feeds

elbow grease

play sth by the air

quick on the draw

be in one's elements

be in the doldrums

be on tenterhooks

to beggar the description

be taken up with

to bring down the ice

to come down upon

to curry favours

to die in harness

catch 22

be in the red

to jump the shark

to eat one's words

to fight shy of

give a bit of one's mind

give a wide berth to

go great lengths

go on a spree

go through fire and water

par of the course

be caught between two stools

far cry from

hear sth on the grapevine

hit the sheets/hey

not a spark of decency

not playing with a full deck

Picture paints a thousand words

put one's other people's eyes

wouldn't be caught dead

a knee-jerk reaction

back to basics

a chip on sb's shoulders

close but no cigar

dead ringer

dog eat dog

excuse my French

* get cold feet

get out of the wrong side

of the bed

get the run-around

get the short end of the stick

graveyard shift

in full swing

in nothing flat

in the bag

in the doldrums

run a straight f
be on a level
playing field
like a headless
chicken

to mum the w

not playing with

a full deck

off the cuff

over the top

pull the wool over

someone's eyes

put a sock in it

put on airs

as a rule of thumb

send someone packing

to shake a leg

small potatoes

smooth sailing

the penny dropped

to tie the knot

to be with it

touch wood

use one's loaf

where there's much)

there's brass

between the cup)

and the lips

a damp squib

a dime a dozen

a mare's nest

a chip on one's shoulder

a toss-up

a man of straw

bite one's tongue

an eyewash

can't cut the mustard

ever and anon

know the ropes

don't look a gift horse

in the mouth

every trick in the book

It's the best thing

since sliced bread

jump on the bandwagon

as right as rain